

The Knightly News

COUNCIL 4522

CHARTERED 1958



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



Monthly Newsletter

January 2020

IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

Thursday, Jan 2nd – Officer's Meeting, 7:30 PM Council Home
 Wednesday, Jan 8th – General Business Meeting, 7:30 PM Council Home
 Tuesday, Jan 14th – Christ House, 4:00 PM Set up
 Tuesday, Jan 14th – Free Throw Contest, 6:00 PM QofA School Gym
 Sat/Sun, Jan 18th/19th – Membership Drive, All Masses Queen of Apostles
 Friday, January 24th – March For Life

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET??

Please do so as soon as possible!

The financial health of the Council depends on your timely remittance of dues!!

Grand Knight's Message

My brothers, I trust you and family had a very Merry Christmas. Today, my family and I wish you a spirit filled New Year! May the Lord our God, Jesus Christ, shine His love upon you and your family! May He remain with you always!

This is the beginning of the last six months of the fraternal year—dues to be paid, New Year resolutions to act upon, our children returning to their respective schools, and the parents on vacation returning to work. I have enjoyed your support and assistance running of the council. Roger Williams, and all the officers and directors, have worked faithfully to move the council forward. Brothers Vincent, Ron, Dennis, Carroll, Jay and others have handled the affairs of the Foundation diligently. The Casey Women's Club continues to support the council in every way they could. To all, I am grateful and salute you.

I am asking each brother to make it a habit to pray for our Chaplain and all the priests. I urge you as a Knight to embrace the weapon you were given on the day you became a Knight—the Rosary, the weapon of prayer. As a Knight, you are an extension of the arm of the priest. You are called to get involved in the activities of the church and in evangelism. Through our actions, we show why we are Knights and invite other Catholic gentlemen to join the order.

When you come to the January meeting, please bring with you the number of hours you have volunteered in

different community and church activities including visiting seniors in the nursing homes. We will be completing the fraternal Activity form and need these hours. The data and report is used by Supreme to maintain our Order's IRS tax status. My brothers, I know Council 4522 members are known and respected for their volunteers and charities.

I need to encourage every member of Council 4522 to ask himself –what do I know of our patron, Saint John Paul II? Our Worthy Lecturer, Daniel Penrose, has been writing about St. John Paul II in this very Newsletter and lecturing about his life during each General Business Meeting. What research have you done about him? Would you consider publishing your findings that we learn more from you? Please get to know our patron Saint!

Fraternally,
Patrick Okoronkwo, GK



Knight of the Month

The December 2019 Knight of the Month is Brother Al Avellino. Brother Al put in long hours selling Keep Christ in Christmas Cards and collecting donations for the Coats for Kids program this past season. He is a fixture at all our meetings and most events. The Council, the kids and our seminarians all appreciate the time and effort put in by Brother Al! Congratulations!!

Family of the Month

The Westons, Brother Leo and Lady Bernadette, are recognized as the December 2019 Family of the Month. Along with KOTM AI, Leo is also a fixture at all of the Council's activities and he too, put in many hours ensuring parishioners had opportunities to purchase Christmas cards and/or donate to the Coats for Kids Program. The Westons also covered the full cost of custom framing our photograph of Bishop Burbidge that now hangs in the Council home. Brother Leo and Lady Bernadette are heavily involved in Queen of Apostles ministries—too many ways to list here. Brother Leo also ushers at the Basilica once or twice a month. Congratulations to the Westons, our December 2019 Family of the Month.

A FAMILY PRAYER

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate the splendor of true love,
to you we turn with trust.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too, may be places of
communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic
churches.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience violence,
rejection and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready
comfort and healing.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its'
beauty in God's plan.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.*

QofA Winter Awards – Special Guest

In addition to all the academic awards presented to the students by teachers and administrators, Council 4522 had several awards to hand out at this annual event—



the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest and the Soccer Free Kick Contest. Details are provided in the following articles. Of note this year, was a (very) surprise visit from our

Worthy State Deputy, Bob Szerszynski, to assist in the recognition of these outstanding achievements. The Council hadn't been graced by a visit from a sitting State

Deputy since our 60th Anniversary celebration back in April 2018...and before then...it had been quite a while. The Worthy State Deputy, stepped right in, presenting awards for the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest and assisting with all the presentations. We were greatly honored that State Deputy Bob took time out of his demanding schedule to honor these deserving students and support Council 4522.

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest

Leah Kebede, an 8th grader at Queen of Apostles Catholic School, took this year's Essay Contest Honors with her description of "The meaning of virtue and how you live and embody the virtue of charity." Grand Knight, Patrick Okoronkwo presented Leah with a \$150 gift card for her winning entry at the school's winter awards ceremony on December 13th. Ms. Kebede's essay is presented below. Congratulations to Leah, and our 2nd and 3rd place authors, Samantha Battaglia and Jesse Kasenge, respectively.

"The meaning of virtue and how you live and embody the virtue of charity" – by Leah Kebede

What is a virtue? The literal definition of a virtue is moral excellence. The word virtue has been mentioned in the Bible many times and is defined as something that is true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and something of good nature. "His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through thee you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2nd Pet 1:3-4). In this quote and throughout the Bible, we are told that it is possible for a human to acquire human virtues on his own through education and by choosing to do what is morally good. But, one finds greater strength to practice the divine virtues though God because man has a weak nature and can fall into sin, but with His help it is easier to steer away from sin and temptation and to live a virtuous life. It is important to live a virtuous life because it is ultimately what gets us into Heaven.

When people talk about charity, we often think about bigger acts like donating large amounts of money to the less fortunate, going to the streets of India and taking care of the sick and dying, etc. Although grand acts like that are great, they can be a bit hard to do especially for younger people like myself. Some

examples of small acts of charity are giving away your old clothes to a homeless shelter or a local Goodwill, offering to babysit for a family member or neighbor free of charge, volunteering at your local soup kitchen, and preaching the word to friends who may not know the full truths of the faith.

A way I live and embody the virtue of charity is by donating some of my older clothes that no longer fit me to a charity that is sending day to day necessities to girls in Ethiopia who have been orphaned or cannot afford them. I also signed up for a program in which I will go to Ethiopia with my aunt's church next summer to help build a school for girls who could not afford to go to school. Another thing I do to embody the virtue of charity is every weekend, I go over to my aunt's house and help her watch her kids and help her out around the house. Her babysitter doesn't work on weekends and her husband works in a different state and only comes home to visit every other week, so she is usually alone on the weekends. While I'm there, I do the dishes, help with laundry, entertain her kids while she is trying to get some work done, and just to keep her company.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest



Students at Queen of Apostles Catholic School also participated in the annual Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. While we didn't get the number of participants we had hoped for, the ones we did receive and judged were outstanding—including our overall winner, submitted by David De Costa and pictured above.

David, now a two-time winner, was presented with a \$25 gift card for his talented artistry. David's rendition was also used by Queen of Apostles Catholic Church as its' official Christmas Card! Congratulations David!



What a Kick!

Council 4522 is very pleased to announce that in a very long time—we have a State Champion in our midst! Congratulations to 13-year-old, Jesse Kasenge, who captured the State Free Kick Contest for his age group! Jesse's father, Charlie Kasenge, has been a Brother Knight for many years and is greatly involved in his family and children's lives as well as youth athletics at QofA school. Jesse is seen here accepting his trophy and medal from Council Youth Director, Vincent Guevara and Worthy District 15 Deputy, John Knox. Council 4522 is very proud of Jesse's achievement! Congratulations on your "Score!!"



Christmas Dinner – Was Delightful!

The Council's annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner was held at the Council Home at 6:30 PM on Saturday, December 14th.

Families, friends, old and young enjoyed a delightful evening of unity, fraternity, great food and refreshments. This year a very special guest arrived just in time to hear some Christmas wishes and spread a little Christmas cheer! Ho Ho Ho! Many thanks to all that participated—and to those who didn't, you're missing a delightful time!! Perhaps next year??



The Council Home was wall-to-wall with Christmas Cheer!!



Linda Lipari (Joe) is letting Santa know what a good girl she has been this year!

Annual Christmas "Basket" Campaign



The Council's Annual Christmas "Basket" was another huge success thanks to the efforts of SKs Joe King, Joe Lynem, Roger Williams (and the Mrs.), Al Avellino, the folks at the ACCA Food Pantry (Jean Rackowski, in particular) and the Casey Women's Club (CWC contributed a gift card to every family)! Fifteen families, selected and vetted by

the Poor Sisters of St. Joseph, received a "basket" full of Christmas groceries, including a 10-12 pound ham, a sack of potatoes, a sack of onions and one of oranges as well. The Council again coupled the Christmas Baskets with donations from our "Coats for Kids" campaign. The majority of the families received at least one kid's coat for a child in the family...as we handed out over 40 coats in total. The remaining coats were donated to children attending Timber Lane Elementary School in Falls Church. Timber Lane primarily serves a very challenged population and the coats provided were gracefully and gratefully accepted on behalf of those most in need. Once again, thanks to the Sir Knights, the ACCA Food Pantry and Jean Rackowski, and the Casey Women's Club, we couldn't have made this activity so special without all your help!



March for Life 2020

Plans for March for Life 2020 are being finalized and our support is needed to make it a success. The goal is for each of your Councils to enlist at least three volunteers to help marshal the March for Life. Having enough marshals is important to having a safe event. In the last several years authorities have added manpower requirements for first aid, clean-up, marshaling, and keeping Marchers from engaging with counter-protesters.

The theme for this year is Life Empowers: pro-life is pro-woman. Jeanne Mancini, President of March for Life, explained the theme, "2020 marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. As we prepare to celebrate this great moment in history, we remember and honor the suffragists, the original feminist leaders who recognized the inherent dignity of

the unborn and that abortion not only ended a life but harmed women. The pro-life movement continues their legacy, recognizing that equal rights begin in the womb!" The March for Life, the world's largest annual civil rights demonstration, will focus on this theme because it is timely in framing the historical perspective that "Life Empowers: pro-life is pro-woman." Your help is needed to have a successful March and spread this important message.

As in previous years, Virginia Knights of Columbus will be the marshals for the March and knowing who will be there is important. Please take a minute to sign up using this link to the Sign Up Genius page, <https://tinyurl.com/KofC2020MFL>, so I'll know you are coming.

The March For Life will take place on Friday, January 24, 2020. You will note the starting location will be as last year, the National Mall at 12th Street, just off the Smithsonian-National Mall Metro Station. The same, earlier start time is to meet at 8:30 AM at the large Recreational Vehicle. I look forward to seeing you there!



Please contact PGK Joe Lynem at plantyourdreams@msn.com for more information!

Basketball Free Throw Contest – Tuesday, January 14th at 6:00 PM (Assistance Requested!!)



The Knights of Columbus, Pope John Paul II Council 4522, is pleased to announce the 2020 International Free Throw Championship for boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14. The Competition will begin at the Council level, to be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 in the Queen of Apostles School gym at 6:00 PM. Winners move on to the district, regional, and state levels. From there, some make it to the international level for championship competition in their group. For more information, please contact the Council's Youth Director, Brother Vincent Guevara, at vincentg.97@gmail.com or (703) 310-9718, or Financial Secretary, Roger Williams at rwsb11@gmail.com or (703) 629-3239.

Thank you!



On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank PGK Bob Bubniak and his wife, Joan, for their donation of a beautiful Christmas wreath which has donned the front door of the Council home over the last month and a bevy of wonderful poinsettias which provided the Christmas spirit and ambiance to the home during the holidays.

Happy New Year (January) Birthdays!



Anthony J Pasquale	01-01
Paul J Eubanks	01-04
Thomas J Byrnes Esquire	01-05
Steven T Zust	01-06
PGK Carroll D Glass	01-09
Joseph B McFadden	01-09
David C Cook	01-14
David A Connolly	01-16
Innocent Nukuri	01-18
Alfred F De Costa	01-21
Michael C Opachko	01-21
Thomas C Gillespie	01-25
Rev Ignacio De Ribera Martin	01-26
Louis J Lombardo	01-26
Michael Mathews	01-27
Edmund G O Brien	01-27
James Laurence Bailey	01-28
Stanley A Burger	01-28
James P McGlynn	01-28
Paul G Vrabel	01-28
Edward F Kearney	01-29
PGK Billy D Stewart Jr	01-30

Casey Womens Club

The annual Christmas dinner was held on Thursday Dec. 12th. We had 22 attendants - members & guests. It was enjoyed by all. Cards with gift cards were given to the Knights to go along with their Christmas baskets distributed to the food pantry. Birthday wishes go out to Dorothy Fanucci, Peggy Puritano & Lucille Wilkerson. Next meeting will be on Thursday Jan. 9th, 2020. Wishing all a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Geri Owen
CWC VP

Nowa Huta? What?

Very few of us have probably heard of the town of Nowa Huta, even fewer of us have ever been there or could even point to it on a map. Observant readers of this column have probably guessed--correctly--by now that this town is in Poland. It is in present day Krakow and was designed as a Utopian city by the communist government in 1954 when it opened the Vladimir Lennin Steelworks--the name Nowa Huta literally means "new steel mill". The town is a good example of a centrally planned city and brutalist architecture. If you need a good example of brutalist architecture here in DC, take a look at the FBI headquarters building downtown—all concrete with very little in the way of ornamentation.

Nowa Huta was a planned community by the communist regime in Poland, and as such was built intentionally without a church. It was the first such settlement in Poland to have been so planned. The residents of the town erected a wooden cross that was removed by the authorities triggering violent unrest.

Karol Wotyla celebrated Christmas midnight mass in an open field in Nowa Huta while he was Bishop and later Archbishop. This mass was held regardless of the weather and was often held amid snow, ice, and the frigid northern European winter air. In 1967, a permit was approved for a church in Nowa Huta—construction was finally finished in 1977. Wotyla was there for the dedication of the church, and on his first pilgrimage back to Poland as Pope, planned to visit Nowa Huta; however, he was not permitted to do so by local authorities. Nowa Huta is one of the prefigurations of the spiritual melding of workers, and the Catholic church which would eventually become a hallmark of Saint John Paul II's impression on history.



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord
January 1, 2020

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MAY THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS BE PRAISED AND HONORED BY ALL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND MAY IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY RULE IN ALL OF OUR HEARTS UNTIL WE ATTAIN TO EVERLASTING LIFE! AMEN! ST. JOSEPH AND ST. DOMINIC, ORA PRO NOBIS!

For questions or comments, please contact the Editor, John Cosgayon at johnnicholascosgayon@gmail.com.
Additional information and points of contact are posted on our website at www.kc4522.com.

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